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MIRACULOUS EVENTS

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AUTHENTIC LETTERS

FROM

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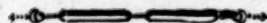
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MIRACULOUS EVENTS

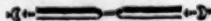
ESTABLISHED BY

AUTHENTIC LETTERS

FROM ITALY.



Vacate & videte.—Ps. xlv. v. 10.



LONDON:

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GROSVENOR-SQUARE.

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THE Public is here presented with authentic letters giving an account of circumstances, which, even in the æra of prodigious events, deserve particular attention.

If the facts they relate be true, it has pleased Almighty God to manifest himself, in our times, by a miraculous interposition of his divine power, in a most public and wonderful manner.

It is not a solitary fact, that has happened in the presence of a few, or of persons predisposed to believe it. It has past in many places, before many thousand spectators, and many of them, the most likely of all men to deny it, to doubt it, and to ridicule it.

The writers of the letters which relate it, are known to be persons of honour, virtue and integrity. They assert themselves to be eye-witnesses of the facts; and call on the universal testimony of the cities and towns where they reside, to depose to the truth of their narratives.

*Extract of a Letter, dated Ancona del Maria,
July 9 and 10, 1796.*

RELIGIOUS sensibility will be greatly affected by the recital of prodigies which have passed here within a fortnight, and of which we are ocular witnesses at every hour of the day and the night. No art, no fallacy can find a plea to deny them; and the unbeliever, the heretic, the Turk and the Jew, after the most serious investigation of the truth of these facts, bear ample testimony to them. Many are already come from the distance of thirty and forty miles. Whole congregations would come from Rome, but in the present critical circumstances the Pope withholds his assent; but his Holiness being acquainted with the particulars was sensibly affected, and said: *I am old, but this makes me young again.* But the greatest of prodigies consists in the conversion of sinners, in reconciliations, restitutions, &c. Our Cardinal Bishop has already published a relation of them, and other hands are employed to give a more extensive and more authentic publicity to these events.

This

This town being threatened with an invasion from the French, on account of its port, the most considerable in the Papal dominions, found itself destitute of the means of defence; no preparations had been made by government; the people, without any fixed system, were the dupes of the profligate and the needy; who had formed the project of a general massacre, which was to begin at midnight on Saturday between the 25th and 26th of June. A great number of sailors had entered into this conspiracy, and the better to secure their share of the plunder, which would undoubtedly have taken place on the occasion, had some days before embarked their effects, and given orders to their wives to hold themselves in readiness to obey the signal for going aboard their boats, in order, as they pretended, to escape from the French. The women were alarmed, they ran about in groups, repeating and bewailing their hard fate. After communicating what each had heard from her husband, the general conclusion was that some great event was near at hand. This class of females, always particularly devout to a miraculous image of the Blessed Virgin placed in the Cathedral, after working several miracles, ran first to his Eminence to demand the open-

ing of the coffin, which contains the uncorrupted body of a holy bishop of this see in the 15th century, whose beatification we celebrated last May. Their petition is granted, and they run in crouds to the Cathedral to invoke his protection, till it was time to sing the litanies, which is done every Saturday at the altar of the blessed Virgin. Never was prayer more fervently addressed to heaven. As they continued to implore the intercession of Mary, a little child who, contrary to custom, appeared to be very devout and recollected, cried out to his mother; the Holy Virgin moves her eyes. The mother looks and beholds the prodigy. Others less liable to be deceived do the same. Nothing is now heard but the effusions of joy and surprize; in an instant the miraculous fact is spread over the whole town. It was received by some as a fable, others laughed heartily at the credulity of the spectators, while the coffee houses rang with the pleasantry and the indecent mirth of the thoughtless and the idle. However many undertook to clear up the mystery and judge for themselves. On their return, they own their conviction of the truth of what they had heard and had now seen. The scoffer and the libertine now hold a different language,

language, and are not ashamed publicly to ask pardon for their profane and ludicrous animadversions they had made on this miraculous fact. The streets are soon thronged with groups of people hurrying to the Cathedral, and reciting the litanies and their beads. The ringleaders of the conspiracy, astonished at the prodigy, throw themselves at the feet of their confessors, lay down their arms on the altars, and implore the forgiveness of those whom they had marked out as the fresh victims of their fury. The church door could not be shut, but remained open till yesterday evening, the thirteenth day. On the next day, Sunday June 26, the public voice demanded, that the image should be carried in solemn procession through the town. There was no time to give public notice; but in an instant ecclesiastical chapters, religious communities, corporations, confraternities, the nobility, the magistrates, composing a body of one thousand persons, form the most orderly and the most edifying procession I have ever beheld. Every one carried a flambeau, the manufactures of wax, though abundantly supplied, were soon exhausted, and they were obliged to have recourse to the treasury of the churches. It was a fine serene day, and not one of the flambeaux

was

was extinguished. This happened a fortnight ago, and the streets are still covered with wax, as if it was just over. Since this general procession, which was performed barefooted, many others have been undertaken night and day, and have been attended by the different confraternities. No orders were issued, no directions given, and yet every thing was conducted in the most orderly and regular manner. Illuminations appeared in every house in the street which runs through the town to the cathedral, where voluntary offerings were made. The wax alone already amounts to 5000lb. Many presented jewels, gold, silver, diamonds, pearls, watches, gold chains, &c. money, poniards, stilletos and pistols.

Our Cardinal Bishop very prudently ordered the church door to be shut for the first time yesterday at 10 o'clock at night, after giving benediction, reading aloud the beads and singing the litanies. He ordered the blessed sacrament to be exposed till next Sunday, and the bodies of the holy bishops protectors of the town remain uncovered and exposed to the veneration of the faithful. As to myself, my dear friend, from Saturday the 25th, till the 28th at midnight, I believed the
miracle

miracle but only on the testimony of others. The painful situation I was in during that period did not permit me to visit the cathedral till after midnight; I walked with difficulty, was much fatigued and greatly incommoded by the heat of the candles which surrounded the altar. However, I was very desirous of having the comfort of seeing this prodigy, that I might have in my power to attest the truth of it to the greater glory of Mary; but as I am very short-sighted, it was necessary I should place myself near the picture, and screen my eyes from the glare of the surrounding tapers. I set out on the Eve of St. Peter a little before midnight; the soldiers opened the entrance into the vacant space behind the altar which separates it entirely from the picture. There I saw first with my naked eye, and afterwards by the help of my spectacles, the eyes of the blessed Virgin painted on the canvass, 1. move horizontally, as if they had been animated; 2. open wider than usual, of which I was able to judge from having often said Mass at that altar; 3. shut quite close so that the hair of the upper eye-lid hung down over the under one. I observed those changes take place twice in the space of a quarter of an hour that I remained

mained there. I rose from my knees and walked home full of comfort: but it soon occurred to me that I should gain little credit with the sceptic, who would object the time of night when I should be naturally very drowsy, or bewildered by the multiplicity of surrounding lights. I determined to try the experiment by broad day-light, and the next day being the Feast of St. Peter, precisely at mid-day I again entered behind the altar. Here I took a different position from that which I had occupied the preceding night, and I clearly saw both with my naked eye and with the assistance of my spectacles the same changes take place. I am ready when properly called upon to make affidavit of these facts, and in the mean time I do assure you that all that I have hitherto written is literally true.

Signed,

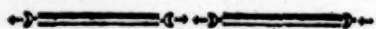
DESCHAMPS de la MAGDELAINE,
Formerly Vicar General and Canon
of Lyon.

P. S. As measures are taking to give to the public an authentic statement of this miraculous fact, yesterday and the day before three painters were called in, men eminent in
their

their profession and of acknowledged probity. I myself know them to be so. The Vicar General, attended by the proper officers, desired them to take down the picture, and to examine it in every part. They took out the glass, put their hands on the face, and particularly on the eyes, in order to see if there was any hollow. No sooner was the hand removed from the eyes than they opened widely. The painters stood petrified at the sight, and were so strongly affected that they could take no nourishment all that day. A celebrated artist in painting on wood was present, and was so impressed with awe and veneration, that taking from his finger a diamond ring valued at 2,000 French livres, he placed it himself in the crown of the blessed Virgin. He then hastens to the sacristy, and enters into a bond to contribute 2,500 livres towards any decoration that might be judged proper for this picture. A Turk was curious to see the prodigy, and seeing it, he said in Italian; Woman, thou movest thy eyes: and putting his hand to his scymeter, which was richly ornamented, said to his attendant; Give her this.

So striking and so constant an interposition of Providence has not yet found a place

in history. This has been accompanied by circumstantial prodigies of a very extraordinary nature. I will mention but one which will put your faith to the test, and yet it is well authenticated. But I stop; I am not sufficiently informed of the detail, and I will hazard nothing of my own. I have just seen one of the painters, Joseph Palaviccini, aged 55 years, who had not recovered from his astonishment, and who assured me that what struck him most was to feel the eyes move under his fingers as if they belonged to a living body.



The miracles related in an extract of several letters from ANCONA and ROME of June 25, and July 1, 6, 8, 9, are fully confirmed by three printed tracts; one entitled, *Extract of a letter from Ancona, June 27*; the other two, *An account of the miraculous movements of the eyes of a picture of our Lady in the cathedral church of Ancona.*

THE first of these relations is dated July 6, and the second July 1. That of the 6th, after

ter an enumeration of the various miracles stated in the foregoing extract, proceeds thus:
 " Ten days and ten nights have now passed
 " away, and still the holy Virgin and St. Ann
 " continue to favour this town with evident
 " marks of protection, not only to us, but to
 " a great concourse of strangers who resort
 " hither from the neighbouring cities and
 " castles. Though this miracle has been pub-
 " lished to this and the neighbouring pro-
 " vinces, though it has been and is still seen
 " by thousands, though it be attested by men
 " of the highest rank, the most distinguished
 " character, men of the best informed minds
 " and the strictest integrity, yet the ecclesiastical
 " court has thought proper to draw up
 " an authentic statement in order to perpetu-
 " ate the memory of it, and to encourage the
 " devotion of the faithful towards the Queen
 " of Saints and her mother St. Ann."

This short account is published by order and with the approbation of his Eminence our Bishop, to the greater glory of the holy Virgin.

ANCONA, JULY 6, 1796.

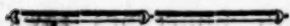
In the relation dated July 1st is the following paragraph: "This relation was alrea-

"dy printed and published before the first
 " steps were taken to ascertain the fact by a
 " juridical examination of the picture, in or-
 " der to remove every suspicion of fraud
 " and collusion. For this purpose about
 " noon on the 6th of this month, the Vicar
 " General went to the cathedral attended by
 " the episcopal notary and three painters.
 " The picture was taken down, the glass was
 " removed in the presence of the said wit-
 " nesses, and after the painters had made eve-
 " ry enquiry and tried every experiment,
 " nothing was found but the canvass perfectly
 " sound in all its parts, without the least ap-
 " pearance or even possibility of deceit. It
 " was then matter of great surprize to see
 " the picture which the Grand Vicar held in
 " his hand in order to have full view of it,
 " open its eyes in a most extraordinary man-
 " ner. The painters were astonished, but at
 " the same time they were filled with spiritual
 " joy and comfort. One of the witnesses
 " present moved to devotion drew a ring of
 " considerable value from his finger, and pla-
 " ced it in the crown which rests on the head
 " of the blessed Virgin. The same painters
 " proceeded to examine the statue of St.
 " Ann, but could not discover the least ves-
 " tige

" tige of art or contrivance. In short, this
" is the 16th day since these prodigies have
" been repeated at stated intervals, and fill
" the world with admiration and joy."

ANCONA, JULY 10.

By permission of superiors.



*Extract of several Letters from Rome, dated
July, from the 1st to the 16th.*

AFTER giving you some account of the prodigies which came to my knowledge from the reports of others, I proceed with heartfelt satisfaction to state such as I have seen myself. On Saturday morning some devout people being in prayer before a picture of our Lady of Archetto, it was observed to open and shut its eyes. The report soon ran through the streets of Rome, and many flocked to pay their homage to it. I was one of the number, and passing by a picture in the streets I found many pious people crying aloud; *Most holy Virgin, favour us with a miracle.* Scarce
had

had they pronounced the words, when their petition was granted in my presence. We immediately intoned the *Te Deum* and the *Litanies*, which were interrupted by the tears and heartfelt sighs of the company.

We proceeded to visit all the other pictures, of which there is a great number in the streets. Most of them shut their eyes, opened them, turned them sometimes towards heaven, sometimes towards the INFANT JESUS, and then towards the people. From this moment the miracle is repeated almost without interruption. I will not attempt to describe the effects which it has produced. I will only tell you that Rome exhibits no faint resemblance of Paradise. The streets and public places are deserted, unless devotion draws people thither to honour the pictures of our Lady which are found there and in private houses, which exhibit the same prodigies. These are at all times surrounded by an immense crowd, who alternately sing the litanies and spiritual canticles. In every street, both night and day, we hear nothing but fervent invocations of the blessed Mary. Missions are established in all the squares, which are attended by a vast concourse of people. The assassin, the revolutionist

tionist and the atheist all crowd to confessional, and it is no uncommon thing to hear penitents making public confessions in the squares and the churches. At night every window has two lights in it, and the poor deny themselves their common nourishment in order to purchase oil. Lamps are now burnt because we have no more tallow candles. This illumination as well as the mission will last at least ten days. Yesterday the same prodigies were exhibited by the pictures of our Lady in the churches, and especially in the new church of the Phillippians, which was open all night, because there were continual processions of men and women, in separate bodies, who walked barefoot and with the most becoming modesty. I was witness of them, and could not help admiring the regularity and good order observed by an assemblage of thousands, though there was neither constable nor sentinel to command respect. Their recollected air and their canticles would have pierced the hardest hearts. Many devout personages in this city assure us that these prodigies are only forerunners of a still more astonishing miracle which will soon take place, and which will fill our hearts with spiritual joy and consolation. It seems

as if God were determined to restore religion to its ancient lustre, and morality to its primitive purity. The same miracles have taken place at Civita Vecchia, and I am persuaded they will happen almost every where. I proceed to some others.

The Flowers de Leuce had been suspended near a picture at l'Arco de Pantani so long ago that they were withered and dry. The other day I observed a fresh green bud on each of them, though they are exposed to the scorching heat of the sun. They open gradually, as if they had never decayed. The leaves and the stalks remained in the same withered state. But now the stalks grow green, as I can witness from a clear and distinct view of them. . . . At Viterbo the body of St. Rose has been covered with an abundant perspiration. . . . In the March in the neighbourhood of Mandola an illumined cross with three flower de leuce's was observed in the air, and to rest on Loretto. The authentic proofs of those facts, confirmed by oath, have been transmitted to the Sacred Congregation of Rites.

JULY

JULY 16.

The miracles wrought by the blessed Virgin still continue and increase in number. Prodigies appear as often as fervent prayers are offered before her statues. They have been observed at Sutri, at Anagni, at Frascati and Perugia.

A miracle never fails when she is approached with a lively faith. The devotion of the people is warm, and conversions frequent. Not a day passes but the most remarkable changes take place. The streets are become sacred as the cloyster. The flower de leuces continue to vegetate as if planted in the most favourable soil. A few days will probably complete their expansion. Something very particular has happened at Perugia. Three refulgent stars were seen on the cheeks of the Virgin, and on the forehead of the infant Jesus whom she held in her arms. Many blind, dumb and lame, have been miraculously cured. My friends, this will be a memorable epoch. We have no example of such a multiplicity of prodigies; their frequency is such, that they have almost ceased to create any extraordinary sensation in the beholders. But admirable are the

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fruits

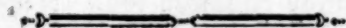
fruits which they produce. At a general communion at Ancona fourteen thousand hosts were consumed.

A Lady of quality at Munster, having obtained leave from the Internuncio to send these accounts to her daughter at London, adds the following reflections.

These, my Dear, are the beginning of the mercy of God towards sinners. Let us hope to be of the happy number. This is the only real counter-revolution. All the rest is folly and delusion. Let us address ourselves with redoubled fervour to the blessed Virgin, imploring her protection for our unhappy country. Let us beg an increase of zeal in her service. Let us not be ashamed to publish these prodigies. I know it is blasphemy to hawk about counterfeit miracles, because God is truth itself, and cannot sanction a lie; but when facts are fairly authenticated, it behoves us to publish them to the greater glory of God, and our own satisfaction. The writer of this letter is a priest of the Congregation of Rites at Rome, and it is addressed to the

Inter-

Internuncio here. The first miracle was wrought at Ancona, on the 25th or 26th of June. The people apprehensive of being invaded by the French, were assembled at prayer in the church, when a child about three years old first saw and proclaimed the prodigy. *Mammy*, says he to his mother, *the holy Virgin has heard your prayer.*



Extract of a letter written by Dr. JOHN CHARLES BONOMI, Antient Professor of Theology in Propaganda, to his Brother, No. 76, Great Titchfield-street, London; dated Rome, July 16, 1796.

I NOW come to give you an account of things that will not be believed in London, though they are incontestable truths of *fact*. During these last eight days many images of the blessed Virgin, and now some crucifixes have been seen to open their eyes and cast them towards the people, and then shut them repeatedly and sensibly. I am not an eye-witness myself, both because my sight is im-

perfect, as well as because I happened not to be present in any of those happy moments when such things were seen, nor had I time to stay long enough to see them. But my work of criticism on miracles, contained in the synopsis I have published, is so accurate and rigid, that it renders me a competent and safe judge. I have been assured of the fact by persons who at first for some days denied it, because they had not seen it themselves, or because it only seemed to them to be so; but since have asserted the reality of it, after repeated experience and the nicest observation. These persons are neither women nor clergymen, but people of the world. The prodigy has not been seen in any of those pictures that are the [most respected, exclusive of that of the Madonna del Archetto, in which it was seen for the first time on Saturday at 10 o'clock. It was seen in the neglected pictures that are about the streets; then it went on multiplying itself in churches, but only in those pictures that have nothing particular to recommend them. Besides the effect it has produced is alone proof sufficient. It is incredible that the people, who were only taken up with thoughts of the French, should not have immediately concluded it to be

be a sign of their being to be liberated from them; but no: the effects were a sincere repentance, reconciliations of enemies, bad habits shaken of, immediate restitutions, without mentioning confessions, and public signs of penance. The next day, at the request of the people, the missions began in public places. The croud is incredible. At the end of the sermon, vast numbers of people formed themselves into processions, singing hymns in veneration to the pictures, but with such order and regularity, that I hardly believe that there was even one handkerchief lost. There breathed every fervor and repentance: those who edified the most, and excited the most compassion, were the most dissolute among workmen, butchers, carters, porters, &c. They were in earnest, and the first thing they did was to hang by those pictures their forbidden weapons, or they resigned them to their confessors.

P. S. I had forgot to tell you that the prodigy of the pictures began in Ancona; and now it is seen in almost all the country in the environs of Rome.

Extract

*Extract of a Letter to the Rev. Mr. Griffiths,
St. George's Fields.*

REV. SIR,

I SHALL not trouble you with an account of the invasion of the Pope's territories by the French; but I cannot fail noticing to you the following fact, that has happened in this city, and which will astonish all the world. Saturday the 9th, a celebrated picture of the blessed Virgin, called la Madonna de l'Archetto was seen by several persons to open and shut its eyes and put on a melancholy aspect. This was followed with the same effect by about twenty other pictures in different parts of the city. An immense concourse of people flocked to see this miracle, who all returned fully persuaded of its truth, and highly penetrated with compunction. I myself can testify to have seen this miracle in four different pictures. The effect it produced on me then was a kind of holy horror, that made my hair stand almost upright: even now, while I am penning this account, it has the same effect upon me. The number of conversions it

it has wrought is astonishing. Nothing is heard but lamentations, nothing seen but processions of penance. . . .

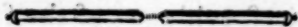
I am,

With all respect and esteem, &c.

English College,

Rome, July 19. 1796.

STEPHEN GREEN.



Copy of a Letter from Rome, July 22.

IN my last of the 9th instant, I gave you some account of the miracles which have been wrought by means of some pictures of our blessed Lady. These are real prodigies, and have produced the most beneficial effects, devotion, penitence, and the conversion of sinners. Similar events have taken place, from the same date, at Rome, and other places in the Ecclesiastical State. Several pictures of the blessed Virgin have been seen to open their eyes, to raise them towards heaven, and then to shut them not once only, but several times, and in the presence of witnesses who

who were never suspected of an easy credulity. The same has happened to images of our Lord and crucifixes. Miraculous cures are wrought, and people born lame recover the free use of their limbs. We have not seen these prodigies ourselves, as we were not at the places where and times when they were wrought. But besides the concurrent testimony of the public, several persons, on whose veracity we can rely, have assured us that they had the clearest evidence of the fact. Among others is a learned and judicious prelate, and several priests and religious men, both French and Italian. No art, no contrivance or collusion could here screen the impostor, who would have been discovered, and would have suffered imprisonment, as others have done, for circulating false miracles.

One thing we ourselves have seen, which some indeed are willing to attribute to the natural process of vegetation, but which we and many others ascribe to a supernatural agency. Three flower de luses, without root, had formerly been nailed on each side of a picture of the Virgin. I was assured that one or two of them had been suspended there for two or three years, and the third for one month. They were all equally withered and dry.

dry. But on the 9th of this month, we saw, on the stalk to the right side of the picture, a bud perfectly fresh and green, and promising a speedy expansion. The same thing happened to the other two on the left. They pushed forth three smaller buds of a beautiful green. The colour is still fresh at the end of a fortnight, notwithstanding the intense heat and uncommon drought. This attracts crowds of people to pray before this and other pictures.

But the effects produced by these prodigies is the strongest and the most unequivocal proof of a supernatural interposition of the Supreme Being. They have excited fervour and devotion, have procured a general reformation of manners, have banished scandal, and have produced numerous conversions and works of penitence. This wonderful change was no sooner represented to the Pope, than he was pleased to order some experienced missionaries, who are always at hand, to undertake a mission the next day, the 10th, and to preach in the six principal squares at the same hour. It was to conclude on the 20th, but has been prolonged to the 26th. This city has often witnessed similar missions, but the oldest inhabitants assure us, that they ne-

ver attracted an equal concourse of people, or produced the like effects. We attend the service in the square nearest to our residence. It is large and always full; no church could contain such numbers; but such is the silent attention to the sermon, that the preacher is distinctly heard from one extremity to the other. The sermon finished, an awful pause ensues, and, falling into groups, they retire, singing aloud the beads or other prayers. The same scene takes place in the other squares notwithstanding the excessive heats which now prevail. But prayer is not all; scandals are removed, enemies are reconciled, restitutions are made; in a word Rome is universally changed, and the confessionals are crowded by penitents.

Yesterday, to-day and to-morrow were the days appointed for penitential processions in order to atone for former scandals. On each of these days two processions set out from two of the squares where mission is held, each paying a visit to one of the principal churches of Rome. As these churches could not contain half the number, a repository is erected at the principal door, and when the whole procession is arrived, the blessed sacrament is placed on it. We yesterday beheld from our
 windows

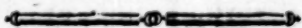
windows that which set out from the square
 which we attend. The Vicar-General, who
 is charged with the government of the diocese
 of Rome, was at the head of it, carrying the
 cross, and accompanied by several prelates.
 No one appeared in the sacred vestments, but
 the clergy and the religious men walked with
 those of every profession without distinction,
 and the women followed. At the head of
 these was the Princess Barbarini, carrying a
 copy of the picture of Ancona, where these
 prodigies first appeared. The throng was so
 great, that it was impossible to form them into
 regular ranks. They marched in groups,
 forming a front of fifteen or twenty persons
 abreast, preceded by some ecclesiastics of the
 secular or regular clergy, who sung some spi-
 ritual canticles, and were answered by the rest.
 Some interval was left between the different
 groups. This confusion of ranks, princes,
 nobles, labourers, priests, all assuming the garb
 and attitude of sinners, had something in it
 extremely striking. There were more men
 than women. Many walked barefoot. All
 seemed perfectly recollected and penetrated
 with the deepest compunction. It was a full
 hour before all had passed our house. When
 the women were all passed, another group of

men appeared forming the rear. There we joined, and went to the door of St. Mary Major to offer our prayers, and receive benediction. Every thing was conducted with the greatest order and decorum. The procession might now be said to be at an end, and the people at liberty to return to their respective homes. However their return resembled a fervent procession; the same prayers, the same music and the same recollection. The fruits produced by this mission encourage to hope for the tranquillity of this country.

It is the general opinion here, that the prodigies wrought in this and other cities of the Ecclesiastical State by the pictures of the holy Virgin, who is in high veneration, promise her especial protection of this country. This opinion is grounded on the following circumstances; 1^o. the French were to march to Ancona, but they have not stirred, and perhaps will not. 2^o. Two or three days after the appearance of these prodigies a miraculous discovery was made of a horrid conspiracy ready to break out, to overturn the government, and to lay the city in ashes. These circumstances give vigor and confidence to the people of Rome. The religious orders and the confraternities will make their respective

tive processions on the 24th, 25th and 26th in the morning. The missions will be continued in the evening.

The other general processions, which took place within these few days, were not less edifying or less numerous than that which we attended. One of them indeed exceeded all the rest. Four Cardinals walked in front, and Princess Colonna carried the picture of our Lady.



Extract of a Letter to Mr. BURKE of Dyott-Street, London, from his Son, a Student in Philosophy at Rome.

..... I pass to the present situation of Rome. The greatest prodigies are seen here every day. Many pictures of the blessed Virgin Mary have been seen to open and shut their eyes, of which prodigy I have been eye-witness two or three times, and they still continue. Some statues of saints have altered their position: some crucifixes have likewise opened their eyes; for which reason Rome is turned into a second Ninive. And his Holiness seeing the devotion of the people, has ordered

ordered sermons to be preached in the public squares for the space of eight days, public processions also to take place after for three days, and on the expiration thereof a re-preaching of the sermons for three other days. You certainly cannot form any idea of the change that has taken place. Wherever you go, you see nothing but processions of penance. Our college went last Thursday in one of these processions to St. Peter's, in which there were more than forty thousand persons. The artizans always work, saying or singing some hymns in honor of the blessed Virgin. I had almost forgot to tell you, that some English gentlemen have been converted by the afore-said prodigies. Many Jews have likewise been converted. . . .

I remain,

Dear Father,

Your most dutiful Son,

English College,

Rome, July 23, 1796.

JOHN BURKE.

Extract

*Extract of a Letter from the Rev. Robert Smelt,
to Mrs. Canning, dated Rome, July 23d,
1796.*

THE good people of Rome are become very pious. Several pictures of the Madonnas opened and shut their eyes. This miracle first began at Ancona, afterwards at other places, and lately at Rome. I saw one picture close its eyes, at least I thought so: however, several persons of undoubted veracity affirm positively that they have seen the same repeatedly. Some of the best preachers in Rome held forth in the great Piazzas, exhorting the people to repentance during fourteen days; the spirit of penance and mortification came upon people of all descriptions; even ladies of the first rank, who united with the vulgar in penitential processions, walking barefoot to churches at considerable distance.

Copy

*Copy of a Letter to the Rev. Mr. MILNER of
Winchester, from the above mentioned Mr.
STEPHEN GREEN, a convert to the Roman
Catholic faith, Sub-deacon and Student in Di-
vinity, at the English College of Rome.*

REV. SIR,

YOU will naturally expect to hear nothing from this part of the world but the history of battles, sieges, and cities taken by storm. Certainly I could find sufficient matter for this subject; but I have another, which is of more importance, and will be more pleasing to you.

On Saturday the 9th, a celebrated picture of the blessed Virgin, called La-Madonna de l'Archetto was seen by several persons to open and shut its eyes, and put on a very melancholy aspect. This was followed by about twenty pictures in different parts of the city; all of which opened and shut their eyes in a most miraculous manner. An immense concourse of people flocked to see this miraculous effect; and all returned persuaded of its truth, and highly penetrated with compunction. I
myself

myself can testify to have seen this miracle in four different pictures. But how shall I describe to you my feelings on this occasion? I could scarce stand on my legs. I returned thanks to God for having brought me to the knowledge of a religion under the special protection of such a Patroness. I blessed you, and I blessed the day that first brought me to Winchester.

The miracle, I think, is incontestable. It is not attested by a few fanatics, or credulous women; it is attested by an entire city (a few excepted) of 160000 souls; it is not only attested by Catholics; it is attested by professional atheists: and seven Jews, with a Protestant English gentleman, have been converted by it. It cannot be the effect of an heated imagination; its duration of twelve days has given time to reflect and examine it coolly.

The effects it has produced exceed all imagination: the confessionals are continually full, the most hardened sinners have been converted, inveterate enemies have been reconciled: nothing is heard but lamentations, nothing seen but processions of penance. One, which I attended yesterday, was composed of persons of all ranks to the amount of

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30,000.

30,000. In one word, Rome at present exhibits a most perfect picture of Niniveh in the time of Jonas.

Our present situation is very precarious on account of the French, but certainly it would ill become us to fear after God has favoured us with such graces.

Your most obedient and humble Servant,

*English College,
Rome, July 29. 1796.*

STEPHEN GREEN.

Whatever may be the merit of the above letters or extracts, it must all rest for the present on the separate or united testimony of the individuals who penned the accounts. Higher authority, as in every department, has no sanction to give, till it is properly and officially informed from abroad.

The necessity of ushering the above individual testimony rather sooner, will appear best from the many absurd misrepresentations so freely scattered in our papers on the subject

ject in question. The public may now examine the whole more impartially, and judge for itself.

The extracts of four more letters from Rome might be added, viz. one of the 23d July, three of the 30th ditto; but as they are all and each from the same pens among the above, it will be sufficient to declare here, they all confirm or illustrate their former assertions.—Some names are omitted barely not to involve their friends in the enemies country.



...in question. The people of the new era
...the (the) more in reality and more
...for itself.

The contents of the book are as follows:
...might be added, that at the end
...of the book, there are many
...and each from the same point among the
...it will be sufficient to show that
...all contain or illustrate their former
...—Some names are omitted, and
...to involve their friends in the same
...country.

